

Rollins, Christopher

From: Devlin, Betsy
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 6:18 AM
To: Grant, Brian; Noggle, William; Ames, Jeremy; Yogi, David; Rollins, Christopher
Cc: Simons, Andrew
Subject: RE: Coast Guard Cutter Storis and PCBs

Yes. Thanks. I just think we all need to agree on what comes next. There is also another communication that Bill received from USCG – I thought he was sending, but I will forward as well.

From: Grant, Brian
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2013 9:10 AM
To: Devlin, Betsy; Noggle, William; Ames, Jeremy; Yogi, David; Rollins, Christopher
Cc: Simons, Andrew
Subject: RE: Coast Guard Cutter Storis and PCBs

From: Devlin, Betsy
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 12:52 PM
To: Grant, Brian; Noggle, William; Ames, Jeremy; Yogi, David; Rollins, Christopher
Cc: Simons, Andrew
Subject: RE: Coast Guard Cutter Storis and PCBs

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Grant, Brian
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 12:23 PM
To: Devlin, Betsy; Noggle, William; Ames, Jeremy; Yogi, David; Rollins, Christopher
Cc: Simons, Andrew
Subject: FW: Coast Guard Cutter Storis and PCBs

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Mclean, Kevin
Sent: Monday, November 04, 2013 8:21 AM
To: Grant, Brian; Simons, Andrew
Subject: FW: Coast Guard Cutter Storis and PCBs

From: Garbow, Avi
Sent: Saturday, November 02, 2013 11:50 AM
To: Lynch, Mary-Kay; Mclean, Kevin
Subject: Fw: Coast Guard Cutter Storis and PCBs

Let's discuss on monday. Thx.

From: Denise Krepp <kdrkrepp@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 9:02:41 PM
To: Garbow, Avi
Subject: Coast Guard Cutter Storis and PCBs

Avi,

I hope you are doing well. Since we last spoke, I started working for a ship scrapping company in Louisiana.

My client is very confused about the recent departure of the Coast Guard Cutter Storis to Mexico. The Storis is a vessel that was built in 1942 and based off of its age, there is a strong possibility that it contains PCBs. We received a letter today from a former Coast Guard validating this assumption.

[REDACTED]

Has the policy changed with regards to exporting PCBs?

Denise Krepp

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202 546 2533

Will historic Coast Guard ship escape scrap heap?

By Jessica A. York/*Times-Herald staff writer*

POSTED: 11/01/2013 01:02:53 AM PDT



The Coast Guard Cutter Storis passes through the Golden Gate Bridge after traveling six days from Kodiak, AK. Storis was the oldest commissioned cutter in the Coast Guard until it was decommissioned in 2007. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by PA2 Brian N. Leshak)

A storied former U.S. Coast Guard vessel sent from Suisun Bay's "mothball fleet" to Mexico for scrapping last week has raised concerns over the 71-year-old ship's final stop.

Environmental concerns related to ships in the federal government's Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet have been an ongoing issue for years, often boiling down to a battle between federal officials and environmental agencies.

The latest scuffle includes an emerging third party -- historical preservationists vying to rescue some of those ships from metal scrapping.

Last week, one such battle came to a head. Officials working for years to convince federal officials to hand over the retired U.S. Coast Guard ice cutter Storis to a nonprofit to serve as a museum ship were shocked first when the vessel was auctioned off by the federal General Services Administration this summer, then towed to Mexico last week. A spokeswoman for the General Services Administration did not return a call seeking comment on the issue Thursday.

At the urging of interested parties, the Environmental Protection Agency has launched an investigation into whether the Storis may contain toxin levels illegally high for foreign export, officials confirmed Wednesday.

The Storis -- used for decades for law enforcement, search and rescue and fisheries work in Alaska -- was sold to San Diego-based U.S. Metals Recovery LLC on June 28 for \$70,100. There was an initial requirement that the vessel be removed from the Suisun Bay Reserve "Mothball" Fleet by July 12.

"On Oct. 21, EPA received information that the STORIS was potentially being exported by U.S. Metals Recovery to Mexico for scrapping and that the ship could contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in concentrations greater than or equal to 50 parts per million," a spokesperson for the Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 wrote in an emailed statement. "EPA immediately began investigating to determine if the vessel contained PCBs, and if so, at what level. This investigation remains ongoing."

The ship has called the federally managed Suisun Bay fleet "home" since its 2007 retirement from the Coast Guard. A spokeswoman for fleet manager U.S. Maritime Administration referred questions about the ship's departure for Texas to the Coast Guard. Coast Guard officials locally and in Washington, D.C. were still looking into a reporter's questions on the issue Thursday.

Jon Ottman, a Michigan marine historian and consultant working with the STORIS Museum and Education Center officials, raised concerns that U.S. Metals Recovery seems to have no physical presence - - website, office phone or physical location -- over which to bring complaints about the out-of-country delivery.

He added that a man associated with the U.S. Metals Recovery and the sale, Mark Jurisich, allegedly asked nonprofit STORIS Museum officials for \$250,000 to sell the vessel instead of scrapping it. Efforts to reach Jurisich were unsuccessful.

Prior to the auction in June, volunteers looking to preserve the Storis initially planned to bring the vessel to Juneau, Alaska, where it had spent so much of its career, and to become a museum ship and train young Sea Cadets. Later, an effort from Toledo, Ohio -- where the vessel was built -- took the lead. Also in the running for the ship were the California Ships to Reefs group, looking to have the vessel sunk and used as an artificial reef when word that the bidding process did not result in a buyer reaching the a minimum-set bid price.

The Storis "made history in 1957 when it led two other Coast Guard cutters through icy waters near the North Pole and into the Atlantic Ocean," and "became the first American vessel to circumnavigate the North American continent," according to Bay Area News Group articles written about the ship upon its retirement.

In 2012, the Storis was listed on the National Register of Historic Places with the help of a nomination penned by Ottman. The nomination notes that the Storis is one of the last remaining vessels that participated in the World War II Greenland Patrols.

For more information on the Storis, visit www.storismuseum.org.

Contact staff writer Jessica A. York at (707) 553-6834 or jjork@timesheraldonline.com. Follow her on Twitter @JYVallejo.